IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** the claims as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a data structure, the data structure having rows and columns, the data structure comprising:

a plurality of rows of the data structure; and

a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the type value identifying a set of one or more columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row.

~~a type column containing a type value for each row, the type value of a row identifying a row type, each type value identifying the columns of that row; and~~

~~a column of a row that includes a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing a type value for each sub-row, the type value of a sub-row identifying a sub-row type, each type value for a sub-row identifying the sub-columns of that sub-row~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~9~~ 36 wherein a sub-column of ~~a sub-row~~ one of the sub-rows of the nested data structure includes a further nested data structure.

11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the data

structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 33 ~~9~~ wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~9~~ 37 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type sub-column.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein ~~a~~ the type value for each of the plurality of rows identifies a schema for a type.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for creating a data structure having a plurality of rows and columns, the method comprising:

identifying ~~each~~ a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows ~~of row~~ of the data structure, the type value identifying a set of one or more columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row; and

storing data for each ~~row~~ of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the data including the type value for each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row. ~~a type column containing a type value for each row, each type value identifying the columns of that row, the stored data for a row including a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing a type value for each sub-row, each type value for a sub-row identifying~~

~~the sub-columns of that sub-row~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 38 wherein a sub-column of a sub-row of the nested data structure includes a further nested data structure.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the data structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 34 wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 39 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type column.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~a~~ type value for each of the plurality of rows identifies a schema for a type.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 including:

providing a data store in a first format;

providing a mapping of the first format to a second format;

receiving a query for a data store based on the second format;

generating a query based on the first format using the received query and the provided mapping; and

executing the generated query based on the first format against the provided data store in the first format to generate data wherein the generated data is stored in the created data

structure.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 including converting the data of the created data structure into data in the second format.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the second format is an XML format.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer system for creating a data structure having rows and columns, comprising:

means for identifying a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the type value identifying a set of one or more columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row ~~identifying each type of row of the data structure~~; and

means for storing data for each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the data including the type value for each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row ~~storing data for each row of the data structure, the data including a type column containing a type value for each row, each type value identifying the columns of that row, the stored data for a row including a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing a type value for each sub-row, each type value identifying the sub-columns of that sub-row~~.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~24~~ 40 wherein a sub-column of ~~a~~ one of the sub-rows ~~sub-row~~ of the nested data structure includes a further nested data structure.

26. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the data structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~24~~ 35 wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~24~~ 41 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type column.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the ~~a~~ type value for each of the plurality of rows identifies a schema for a type.

30. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 including:

a data store in a first format;

a mapping of the first format to a second format;

means for receiving a query for a data store based on the second format;

means for generating a query based on the first format using the received query and the mapping; and

means for executing the generated query based on the first format against the data store in the first format to generate data wherein the generated data is stored in the created data structure.

31. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 30 including converting the data of the created structure into data in the second format.

32. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 30 wherein the second format is an XML format.

Please **ADD** claims as follows:

33. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 9, the data structure further comprising:

a type column including the type values for the plurality of rows.

34. (New) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein storing data for each of the plurality of rows of the data structure comprises:

storing the type value associated with each of the plurality of rows in a type column of the data structure.

35. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 24, wherein the means for storing data for each of the plurality of rows of the data structure comprises:

means for storing the type value associated with each of the plurality of rows in a type column of the data structure.

36. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 9, the data structure further comprising:

a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, each of the sub-rows having a type value identifying a set of one or more sub-columns of the nested data structure associated with the corresponding sub-row, thereby enabling the set of sub-columns for each of the plurality of sub-rows to vary based upon the type value for that sub-row.

37. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 36, wherein one of the sub-columns is a type sub-column including the type value for the sub-rows.

38. (New) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the data structure includes a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, each of the sub-rows having a type value identifying a set of one or more sub-columns of the nested data structure associated with the corresponding sub-row, thereby enabling the set of sub-columns for each of the plurality of sub-rows to vary based upon the type value for that sub-row.

39. (New) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein one of the sub-columns is a type sub-column including the type value for the sub-rows.

40. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 24, wherein the data structure includes a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, each of the sub-rows having a type value identifying a set of one or more sub-columns of the nested data structure associated with the corresponding sub-row, thereby enabling the set of sub-columns for each of the plurality of sub-rows to vary based upon the type value for that sub-row.

41. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 40, wherein one of the sub-columns is a type sub-column including the type value for the sub-rows.